



# California Postsecondary Education Commission

770 L Street, Suite 1160 • Sacramento, California 95814  
www.cpec.ca.gov • (916) 445-1000

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Contact

Karen Humphrey  
khumphrey@cpec.ca.gov • (916) 445-1504

## University of California Davis Awarded \$1,000,000 Improving Teacher Quality Grant

SACRAMENTO — November 7, 2005 — The University of California Davis has won funding for a professional development grant that targets all science and social studies teachers in the Grant Joint Union High School District. The university was awarded a four-year grant of \$1,000,000 by the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) in a statewide competition. The project aims to improve student achievement in history and science by providing literacy training through institutes and follow-up coaching. The unique combination of science and history allows the project to leverage the similar reading, writing, and thinking skills needed in these two inquiry-based disciplines to help students succeed in both subjects.

The grant is part of the federal Improving Teacher Quality Program funded under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. It is the latest edition of a long-standing federal program aimed at improving student achievement through professional development for teachers. Over two decades of administering the program, CPEC has awarded more than \$75 million to colleges and universities working with high-need K-12 schools throughout California. The 2005 grants focus on improving academic literacy in high schools. They also require rigorous evaluation research to demonstrate how the professional development affects student achievement.

Taking note of this requirement, CPEC Executive Director Murray Haberman observed that "Being required to demonstrate the impact of the professional development on student achievement, not just on teacher behavior, is critical and supports CPEC's overall commitment to accountability in educational programs."

Howard Welinsky, chairman of the Commission, says the grants play an important role in making sure every student has a highly qualified teacher. “The program has had a long-term impact on helping teachers strengthen their content knowledge and their understanding of effective teaching strategies—key elements of education reform,” he said. “UC Davis and its partner schools should be proud of the quality of their proposal and its potential for improving teaching and learning in the Sacramento Valley.”

The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state’s educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities. More information about the Commission and its work can be found at its website at [www.cpec.ca.gov](http://www.cpec.ca.gov). For more information about the state program, contact Karen Humphrey, Administrator, Improving Teacher Quality Program, at 916-445-1504 or [khumphrey@cpec.ca.gov](mailto:khumphrey@cpec.ca.gov). For information on the project described above, contact Arthur Beauchamp at 530-752-5876 or [acbeauchamp@ucdavis.edu](mailto:acbeauchamp@ucdavis.edu).

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